



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

GP2768
#6105
7/1/00

Applicant(s): Hoashi et al.)
Serial No.: 09/503,777)
Filed: February 14, 2000)
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS)
FOR AUTOMATIC)
INFORMATION FILTERING)
USING URL HIERARCHICAL)
STRUCTURE AND AUTOMATIC)
WORD WEIGHT LEARNING)

Group Art Unit: 2768

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Ref.: MM-20108

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Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97 and §1.98, documents that may be material to the examination of this application are listed on the attached PTO-1449 form. Copies of each document are enclosed.

No inference should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any disclosure in the listed documents is equivalent to the subject invention.

The references 4, 9, 20 and 21 were cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing that the automatic information filtering method utilizing URL is generally well known before the filing of the present application. In particular, the references (20) and (21) were considered as utilizing the upper level URL of the present application, the reference (4) was quoted as implying that "the system can be constructed such that a resource located in a displaying directory or sub-directory will take care of classes of the entire directory/sub-directory" on page 9, left column.

The reference (3) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as background material that did not constitute the reason for the rejection.

The reference (22) was cited by the Japanese Examiner for its disclosure in sections "2.2.2 Vector Space Model" and "2.2.3 Related Feedback", as showing that filtering of inappropriate information is well known.

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The reference (4) was also cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing the filtering of information which is not desired to be displayed and information whose content is not desired to be learned, in the paragraphs 22-27.

The reference (13) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing the filtering according to the PICS.

The reference (5) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing the limiting of the display of the pages that are harmful to youngsters, in the paragraph 5.

The reference (16) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing the checking of the presence of words that are expected to be harmful, in section 5.1 on page 81.

The reference (19) was cited as describing features of documents contained in the WWW for the sake of filtering harmful information or assisting a search of information of interest, on page 789 (3).

The reference (18) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as showing "Cybersitter '97" which is a software for filtering harmful information, on page 324.

The reference (17) was cited by the Japanese Examiner as describing a filtering software.

The references 2, 6-8, 10-12, 14 and 15 were cited by the Japanese Examiner as background material that do not constitute a basis for rejection.

English language abstracts have been provided for each of the Japanese patent documents, except for No. 9-26975(9). Japanese patent document No. 9-26975(9) references Serial No. 08/519,168 which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,678,041(1).

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to enumerate each and every feature disclosed by each document, however. The Examiner is requested to review these documents and to determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures, if any, with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

The right to later set forth how the claimed invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and documents

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recited herein, and those that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application is reserved.

The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

By

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 15, 2000.

Sue Duggan
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